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COMMUNISTS TAKE MORE GRAIN THAN KMT -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 12 Jan 50

The fertile and prosperous delta south of Kuang-chou has fallen upon evil times since the Communist forces moved in, according to a farmer who gave the following illustration. The old rule was that a tenant paid the landlord four tenths of the early crop and six tenths of the late crop. The amount of payment was to be determined by the quality of land. Usually, payments ranged from 1½ to 3 piculs per year. But after the Red troops came, all land, irrespective of quality, was reckoned at 3 piculs per mou per year for the second payment. Besides, 180 catties had to be paid to the landlord on all land. The landlord then must give two thirds of what he received to support the "front-line troops." Thus, he loses two thirds of his income from rent. Similarly, the tenant also loses. Formerly, he paid less on poor land but now it is all graded at 3 piculs rental.

The same farmer further stated that the landlord or tenant is restricted in another respect. Each family may keep only 5 piculs of grain in reserve, in addition to a ration of 4 piculs for each person. Any amount beyond that must be registered with the government, or peasants' association, or "agency for supporting the front." The reserve must not be touched unless an emergency necessitating the selling of grain arises. All such transactions must be reported to the proper authorities.

As for the collection of grain for the 1950 spring harvest, nothing is known as yet; but questionnaires have been distributed. Some say that this survey by the Communists is in preparation for a redistribution of land. But this cannot be affirmed, because the Communists themselves have made no announcement. Many folks are delaying filling the questionnaire until the purpose of the survey is known more clearly.

CALLS GRAIN LEVYS IN NORTHEAST EFFICIENT -- Wen-hui Pao, 13 Jan 50

Grain levying has been speeded up through the entire Northeast, and by late December more than half the quotas had been collected. Sungkiang and Jehol provinces brought in their full amount by the middle of December. Other provinces had delivered 60-70 percent by the end of December. The quality of grain was also up to standard. Last year, collections were according to the annual quota; but this year, due to widespread disasters, the maintenance of quality and a fair apportionment in which neither peasants nor government suffered too much, became quite a problem for the officials.

Therefore, for this year's levy, a careful survey of damage, reclassification of land, and investigation of black land [arable land that is not reported] was made. In Liaohsi Province, last August, the teams that were out in the field pushing flood control, production, and relief also made a study of land output. Kirin Province also made a new estimate of land output, in which many peasants took part. Liaotung Province, during the autumn levy, discovered 66,000 mou of unreported land. In Chin-hsi Hsien of Liaohsi Province, of their own accord peasants reported more than 5,000 mou of black land.

In most cases the peasants have profited. For instance, in Jehol the requisition of public grain has been lighter than last year, the highest being not more than 20 percent, and in Pei-p'iao and Chao-yang between 10 and 20 percent. In Heilungkiang a call was made for the best quality of grain, followed by an urgent directive to maintain this quality. Orders were issued to reward early delivery. This was followed by visits of officials and cadremen to the countryside. In early December, Hailun Hsien had brought in 23 million catties of high-grade grain, which was more than 27 percent of its total quota. More than 20,000 tons of high-grade grain are collected daily throughout the province of Heilungkiang.

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In mid-December, the time of greatest pressure, an average of 30,000 carts were delivering grain daily (the maximum being 70,000) in the Northeast. More than 300,000 horses were employed and from 100,000 to 150,000 persons.

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